**Dialectical Journal for Life of Pi by Yann Martel**

***Your dialectical journal for The Life of Pi will be a conversation on the page. On the left you will write important quotations from the novel; on the right you will write why the quote is significant in the context of the story. You will often need about 2-3 sentences to properly explain each significant quote.***

Objectives:

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1. To read and analyze the novel and its characters, themes, figurative language, and settings.

2. To analyze the importance of a journey for maturation and understanding.

3. To compare/contrast the characters and themes within the novel.

4. To show evidence of independent thinking and personal analysis.

1. To read and analyze the novel and its characters, themes, figurative language, and settings.

2. To analyze the importance of a journey for maturation and understanding.

3. To compare/contrast the characters and themes within the novel with

characters and themes from Into the Wild and The Road (even The Odyssey or To Kill a Mockingbird from

**You will have a total of 10 entries in your journal. The entries must correspond with the chapters below.**

**Entry 1: Chapters 1-7 4: 37-46 7: 71-86 10: 96-100**

**2: 8-20 5: 47-55 8: 87-91**

**3: 21-36 6: 56-70 9: 92-95**

**A completed entry will include the following:**

1. One quote that relates to one of the following themes (see below for themes and codes.)

**THEMES:**

• **Coming of Age/Maturity (Code “M”)** - Growing up and maturing (either mentally or physically) is a

progression; it is not something that happens to a child overnight. When a child loses his innocence, he gains awareness and understanding of the world in which he lives. Examine the progression of Pi Patel throughout the course of the novel. Cite examples of how Pi, through experiences and mental struggles while alone on the raft, becomes an adult and learns to understand the world in which he exists.

• **Faith and Religion (Code “R”)**– Pi Patel, while struggling for survival in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, faces both physical and mental hardships. How does religion and/or faith factor into his experience of survival and ability to overcome these hardships? What conclusions does Pi draw regarding different world religions and his own personal faith?

• **Fear (Code “F”)—**An overwhelming issue facing Pi as he confronts a 450 pound tiger in a small raft with no help in sight is the ability to control his fear and mentally face a troubling situation. In what ways does Pi learn to cope with his fear? How does fear affect him both physically and emotionally? How does the role of fear change from the beginning of the book to the end?

In addition to the quote related to the theme from above, the journal **MUST** include the following:

1. Another significant quote – how does this quote relate to the characterization (Code “CH”) or setting (Code S)?
2. Connection -

Text to Text (Code “T/T”) (similarity of Life of Pi to - other written/viewed work)

Text to World (Code “T/W”) (similarity of Life of Pi to – any kind of world event)

Text to Life (Code “T/L”) (similarity of Life of Pi to - something or someone in your life)

1. Example of a literary device (simile, metaphor, tone, mood, imagery, hyperbole, irony, etc.) and explain what that device is important or effective for the passage. (Write the literary device for the code.)
2. Question (code “Q”) – to ask or answer an old question/ question about the passage or reading
3. Prediction (code “P”) – a prediction about what is going to happen and reasons why you think that may happen.
4. Comment (code “C”) – reader response to something that happened
5. Visualization (code “V”) – a sketch drawing on a visually stimulating passage
6. Research/Allusion (code “A”) – a reference to something that you looked up to better understand

**Your Dialectical Journal MUST be handwritten and you may not take information from another source. The purpose is to do your own thinking about the reading. Typed journals will NOT be accepted. You will be able to use your dialectical journal in writing your graded essay.**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Code  R  CH/F  T/T  A | Page #  3 | Citing page numbers, write significant  excerpts from the text on this side of the  page.  ***Examples (You may NOT use these!):***  Bapu Ghandi said, ‘All religions are true.’ I just  want to love God”, I blurted out, and looked down,  red in the face.  “I looked Richard Parker dead in the eyes.  Suddenly his brute strength meant only moral  weakness. It was nothing compared to the strength in  my mind”  “It was Richard Parker who calmed me down. It  is the irony of this story that the one who scared me  witless to start with was the very same who brought  me peace, purpose, I dare say even wholeness.”  “My zoology thesis was a functional analysis…of the three toed sloth” | Directly across from the significant excerpts,  write your original ideas about the  importance of the text. This analysis must  be at least two to three complete sentences.  Your analysis should include  • Interpretation of how the quote  illustrates the theme.  • Explanation of how the quote fits in  with the plot of the novel.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Pi is frustrated with his teachers and parents who  insist that he choose one religion to follow. Instead,  Pi seeks a simpler version of faith that does not  include the controversies and arguments that adults  squabble over. Pi has intense faith, but he is not  necessarily religious.  Pi finally confronts the fear that has been mentally  exhausting him throughout his excursion. He realizes  that he has nothing to fear since his mental strength  far surpasses the tiger’s physical strength.  This reminds me of To Kill a Mockingbird when Scout finally faces “Boo” Radley face to face. She spent most of the story being scared of him, but when she finally meets him, she realizes he is not that scary and is really nice.  A sloth is a monkey-like creature that is characterized by its lack of movement and slow speed. |

**DIALECTICAL JOURNAL RUBRIC**

**A** Detailed, meaningful passages and quote selections. Thoughtful interpretation and commentary about the text; avoids clichés. Includes reference to a variation of theme, tone, character analysis, question-answer/clarification, prediction-outcome, comment reaction, text to text, text to world, and text to life. Journal is neat, organized, and professional looking; student has followed directions in organizing the journal.

**B** Less detailed, but good quote selections. Some intelligent commentary; addresses some thematic connections. Some listing of applicable literary elements, but meaning is incomplete. Adequately addresses all parts of reading assignment. Journal is neat and readable; student has followed directions in the organization of the journal.

**C** Few good quotes from the text. Most of the commentary is vague, unsupported, or plot summary/paraphrase only. Some listing of applicable literary elements; virtually no discussion on meaning. Addresses most of the reading assignment, but is not very long or thorough. Journal is relatively neat, but may be difficult to read. Student has not followed all directions in journal organization; loose-leaf, no columns, not on separate paper, etc.

**D/F** Hardly any good quotes from the text. All notes are plot summary or paraphrase. Few literary elements, virtually no discussion on meaning. Limited coverage of the text; way too short..Did not follow directions in organizing journal; difficult to read or follow.